

Message Text

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13-12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 777

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E.O. 11652: NBSA

TAGS: SNAR BM

SUBJ: ANTI-NARCOTICS CAMPAIGNS IN UPPER BURMA

REF: (A) STATE 001818 (B) RANGOON 0011

1. NYT ARTICLE CITED REFTEL A MISINTERPRETED NEWS RELEASE ON BURMA ARMY OPERATION AGAINST KMT REMNANTS. KMT FORCES ARE LEFTOVERS FROM 3RD AND 5TH CIF AND NOT CONNECTED WITH "CHINESE NATIONALISTS". LOCAL NEWSPAPERS GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE ON JANUARY 4 TO RESULTS OF TWO SEPARATE OPERATIONS AGAINST KMT REMNANTS ON JANUARY 1 IN SHAN STATE. CONNURMED BY MIS CHIEF, COL. AUNG HTAY, TO EMBOFF, ARTICLE NOTED THAT TWO OPERATIONS RESULTED IN 43 KMT TROOPS KILLED, 43 CAPTURED, 79 WEAPONS CONFISCATED. FOLLOWING BATTLE, 50 KMT TROOPS SURRENDERED, BRINGING 77 WEAPONS. DATT INFORMED SEPARATELY THAT OPERATION WAS PLANNED IN ADVANCE AND EMPLOYED SEVERAL UNITS, INCLUDING 43RD REGIMENT AND 16TH REGIMENT. ARTICLE DID NOT DISCUSS NARCOTICS EXCEPT TO DESCRIBE KMT REMNANTS AS OPIUM SMUGGLERS. HOWEVER, COL. AUNG HTAY DISCLOSED THAT APPROXIMATELY ONE POUND OF NO. 4 HEROIN AND OTHER OPIUM DERIVATIVES WERE ALSO CONFISCATED. COMMENT: BATTLES TOOK PLACE IN AREA NOT NORMALLY FREQUENTED BY KMT. CONJECTURE IS THAT PANG PI-MONG PAN OPERATION MOUNTED AGAINST KMT IN SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1975 IN MOUNTAINS SOME 80 MILES SOUTHWEST OF RECENT INCIDENTS, FORCED DISLOCATION OF KMT TROOPS INTO UNFAMILIAR TERRITORY.

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2. IN SEPARATE ANTI-NARCOTICS OPERATION IN CHIN HILLS (REFTEL B),
MIS CHIEF REVISED EARLIER STATEMENT ON USE OF HELICOPTERS. COL.
AUNG HTAY STATED ONLY THAT U.S. HELICOPTERS WERE NOT RPT NOT
EMPLOYED IN FIRST PHASE OF OPERATION ZINNU.
HOWARTH

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Message Attributes

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